

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The Listing of Claims set forth below shall replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

### **Listing of Claims:**

What is claimed is:

- 1.-7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously presented) A method of identifying whether a compound is an agonist or antagonist of *Aedes aegypti* sterol carrier protein-2 (AeSCP-2) cholesterol binding activity, comprising the steps of:
  - (a) incubating an AeSCP-2 polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 with cholesterol in the presence of a compound; and
  - (b) measuring the ability of the compound to enhance or block the interaction between the AeSCP-2 polypeptide and cholesterol to thereby identify an agonist or antagonist effective in altering AeSCP-2 cholesterol binding activity.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying compounds which bind to or interact with an *Aedes aegypti* sterol carrier protein-2 (AeSCP-2) polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3, comprising the steps of:
  - (a) contacting an AeSCP-2 polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3 with a compound to be screened under conditions to permit binding to or interaction between the compound and the

AeSCP-2 polypeptide to assess the binding to or interaction with the compound, such binding or interaction being associated with a detectable signal in response to the binding or interaction of the AeSCP-2 polypeptide with the compound; and

(b) determining whether the compound binds to or interacts with the AeSCP-2 polypeptide-by detecting the presence or absence of the signal generated from the binding or interaction of the compound with the AeSCP-2 polypeptide.

11. (Cancelled)